

## The French Broad Hustler

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## THE SPECIAL SESSION

As was expected, the Governor has decided to call the Legislature to meet in extra-session on the 21st of January. The purpose of the call is stated to be the consideration of the compromise tentatively agreed to between the Governor and all the railroads affected by the passenger rate bill, with the exception of the Atlantic Coast Line. Under the terms of this agreement the roads are to sell 500-mile intrastate family mileage at the present rate of 2 1-4 cents; they are to sell mileage books of 1000 and 2000 miles at 2 cents, good on interstate travel; they are to be permitted to charge 2 1-2 cents for single tickets. In addition to this, the railroads agree to pay \$17,500 towards the expenses of the state.

Put briefly, the compromise is this, that the public gets a rate one cent cheaper than at present for interstate travel, if mileage books are purchased, the same rate for travel within the state on the purchase of a five hundred-mile book, and pay a quarter of a cent more for travel on single ticket than the rate now obtaining. In any light, the agreement indicates a clear victory for the state, since the single ticket rate agreed upon is one quarter cent lower than the former second-class rate and three-quarters of a cent lower than the former first-class rate. In addition the sovereignty of the state is admitted and established, a tedious litigation is ended and a vexed question relegated to the back ground.

The Atlantic Coast Line does not consent. Its consent will be a matter of time, since it cannot refuse to compete with the other roads accepting the compromise. It will have to meet their rates on interstate travel, and say it is willing to meet them on intrastate travel. If the Atlantic Coast line persists in carrying on its litigation it will do so at its own risk and in face of an accepted and admittedly fair offer of settlement.

This is the question that will bring the Legislature together. It is what it is called to consider. We have no doubt that it will be decided in accordance with the views of the Governor. If the Legislature meets its duty and does it, it will find better favor with the people than if it continues to take thought. Legislatures are necessary, but ungetting. The wisdom of the fathers decided that once in two years was often enough for them to convene. They passed many laws last year that are only yet half digested. Let them restrain a natural impulse to better their own job and they will not only go back to their constituents in better favor but, if they adjourn in the few days necessary to do the work expected of them, the \$17,500 paid by the agreeing railroads will be sufficient to reimburse the state for their contemplated re-advent.

## AS TO STATE PROHIBITION.

As the extra session of the Legislature approaches there is heard more and more insistent talk and prediction that it will, before adjourning, enact a general State prohibition law.

There are several excellent reasons, in our opinion, why no such course should be taken.

In the first place, such action

would not be responsive in spirit to the call of the Governor. The provision for an extra session contemplates an unforeseen emergency. That emergency has arisen in the litigation and trouble and unrest arising out of the passage of passenger rate bill. In this matter the State has been firm and so far victorious. The courts refused to be restrained and the Governor declined to be bull-dozed by threats or clamor. What the State has all along contended for—that the law should be obeyed pending its judicial interpretation—has been conceded. But it must be clear that the state of antagonism between great corporations and the people of the State is prejudicial. The compromise proposed and accepted gives relief to the people and goes far toward strengthening the principle of State supremacy in control over public service corporations. It is necessary that the Legislature convene to give effect to an advantageous agreement. In this equation, we do not see that the question of State Prohibition has any logical standing. When in session last year the Legislature did not consider it, while proving in many instances that it favored temperance. Since it adjourned, the people in a score of places have voted out liquor from their cities and counties. Why, when the principle of temperance is steadily gaining ground, should the Legislature be expected to apply prohibition to territory that is not yet prepared for it. What makes prohibition morally worth while is the way in which it is enforced. It cannot be questioned that, with local option taken away, prohibition will in some communities arouse a spirit of strong resentment when, if left alone, it might in due course come by the will of the people of such communities. People who in a city or county command prohibition by their votes shoulder the responsibility of its enforcement. It is otherwise when prohibition—a policy anciently left to local regulation—is obtained by State enactment. Prohibition should be obtained and not imposed.

In the second place, the legislators who are to assemble in Raleigh were none of them elected with state prohibition in view. It were better that, if state prohibition come, it come either by a vote of the people or by the equivalent of their vote through representatives whose views upon the question have been clearly stated upon the stump. It may be argued that the Watts law and the Ward bill were enacted without having been made campaign issues previously. Those bills were only partially prohibitive. They left an option in the people to vote under certain limitations declared to fall within the police power of the state. Prohibition eliminates the community vote, regardless of community sentiment. And, again, the the Ward bill and the Watts were passed in response to a great and concerted demand that manifested itself after the election, but before the Legislature convened. State prohibition, that was unheard of during the entire session, is now advocated presumably because it was passed under similar circumstances in Georgia and Alabama.

As to the political significance of the move the claim that, without prohibition, there be continued dissension in the party, is offset by the fact that, with it, there will be injected a new and untried issue into the general campaign, where it ought to be a local issue. To all who have doubts on this score, let them re-

member that practically every man who has been all his life seeing this question through the eyes of the liquor interests is now in the vanguard of those who are shouting that the state ought to be dry. Every republican will seek to advocate prohibition and then go to the people saying in one breath "We forced them to do it" and, in the next, "the democrats are responsible." What they say will amount to little but with another Legislature meeting within less than a year, it would seem the part of folly, even to appear to interfere with the progress of a moral reform that is finding its safe and certain solution in the conscience of the people through whom it must be made effective.

## CONDITION OF FARMERS.

North Carolina still maintains the long established reputation accorded to it as one of the leading agricultural states of the South. Advices received from the various counties of the state by the department of Labor and Printing, indicate rapid advancement and unquestioned preeminent interest among the farmers in every section. The great diversity of products continue to serve as a safe-guard to the state and fortunate is the energetic farmer whose efforts during the growing season permits him to harvest an abundant crop of each variety adapted to North Carolina soil. The growing season in this state is, fortunately, of sufficient length to permit the raising of double crops, for land that yields a goodly crop of "small" grain during the months of June and July may again later in the year bring forth a nice supply of late corn, or vegetables of various kinds.

Fertility of land is reported well maintained in ninety of the ninety-eight counties and improved lands are in higher state of cultivation than ever before. The farmers report that want of desirable labor has been a serious check to progress on the farm for several years and this condition has brought about the apparent necessity of reduced acreage in improved lands. The gradual exodus of people from the farms to the towns has almost depopulated some sections of the state and this fact is largely responsible for the growing tendency toward smaller farms in so many of the counties, and caused the unprecedented advance in agricultural products. Every county reports labor scarce and, in many instances, unreliable. The subject of desirable immigration is attracting wide-spread attention and the farmers of more than half put themselves on record in favor of securing the better class of foreign labor.

Improved methods of farming are also being introduced, in a



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large measure, and the demand for labor-saving machinery has become more noticeable during recent years than at any former period in the state's history. Farming has, indeed, come to be more "respectable" and remunerative and life in the rural communities today has charms that are "fading enchantment" to the events of daily life around thousands of magnificent country homes established by the industry and perseverance of the honest sons of toil. Fruit-growing, dairying and stock-raising have come to be profitable sources of revenue to the farmer and it is gratifying to note improved condition in every other branch of agriculture throughout the length and breadth of the state.

## Legal Notices.

## PUBLIC SALE.

F. E. Orr, administrator of the estate of the late Jason Orr, will sell at public auction, on the 23d day of January, a lot of personal property, consisting of cattle, hogs, corn, wheat, rye, hay, molasses, lumber, farming utensils, household and kitchen furniture, etc. Sale will take place at the late residence of Jason Orr, on French Broad River, Etowah, Jan. 23d.

## Notice.

Notice is hereby given that the property belonging to the estate of the late T. E. Grimes, dec'd, at the sale held for the purpose of raising assets to pay debts, brought the following amount: Real Estate known as Georgia Home and lot upon which the house is situated about 100 feet square \$1475. Personal property \$100.00.

Any person who may desire to raise these bids can notify the clerk of the Superior Court of Henderson County who will acquaint them of the terms upon which they can be increased and new sale had. If they are not raised I will apply to the court to confirm the sale.

J. WILLIAMS,  
Administrator of T. E. Grimes, dec'd.

## Administrators Notice.

Having qualified as administrator of the estate Mary A. Jones, deceased, late of Henderson county, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 1st day of January, 1908, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.

This January 1st, 1908.  
MRS. ADA E. CORPENING, Admr.

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Southern Farmers.  
We have talked to many farmers, and where we find one who grows his house supplies we find one undisturbed, but if he has staked his all on cotton he is very nervous. "I was ever thus," Southern Cultivator.

Mulching Strawberries.  
The time to mulch strawberries is just after a good freeze, when the ground is hard enough to hold up a wagon.

## Train Schedule.

	Due
No. 14 for Spartanburg	8:10 a. m.
No. 8 for Toxaway	4:30 p. m.
No. 10 for Spartanburg	5:40 p. m.
No. 7 for Asheville	10:15 a. m.
No. 9 for Asheville	1:25 p. m.
No. 13 for Asheville	6:40 p. m.

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Dressers 6.35, 7.70, 9.00 formerly 7.50, 10.50, 11.50  
Chairs 45c, 60c 70c formerly 50c 85c 90c.

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